

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the present application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-21 as well as Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Ohba. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously communicated, the present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for animating a video object whereby movable parts of an animated object move in accordance with music. More specifically, music control information, such as MIDI information, is provided whereby the information includes multiple types of event data, such as note-on MIDI data, note-off MIDI data, or a control type MIDI data. As also previously mentioned, the multiple types of event data may be selected by using a parameter setting module to correspond with certain movable parts of the animated object to thereby generate video images in response to certain types of music event data.

To illustrate, Applicants refer the Examiner to Figure 8 of the present application, which illustrates a graphical user interface that can be used to select the type of event data to correspond with the movements of, in this particular instance, the left elbow. More specifically, a user may use this interface to select the type of event data for causing the left elbow of an animated object to bend. Amongst the data types to be selected, the user may choose one of the note-on events (NS), one of the control events (CS), or the beat type (BS) (see also page 22, lines 10-15 of the specification of the present application). By providing the ability to select one of the many types of event data to correspond with the movable parts of an animated object, the user is given the flexibility to control the detailed movements of the animated objects.

Neither Sato nor Ohba contain any disclosure or suggestion of providing musical control information and providing a parameter setting module whereby the user can select one of multiple types of event data to control a movable part of an animated object. The Examiner quotes Sato as disclosing that "articulated objects are stored in an advanced motion database and the chords are detected to match with the motion data stored in the motion database" to thereby

convert music into “visual art.” As the Examiner acknowledged, Sato does not disclose selecting and setting types of event data to the movable parts of the object (see page 4 of the Detailed Office Action). Ohba fails to make up for Sato’s deficiencies.

The Examiner indicated that Ohba discloses selecting and setting types of event data to the movable parts of the object. More specifically, the Examiner indicated that Ohba uses “a filter formed to detect musical scale, stress, and length of the synthesized sound based on the MIDI signal to generate the [moving] parameters” Applicant respectfully disagrees that Ohba discloses selecting and setting types of event data to correspond to movable parts of an animated object as claimed in the present invention. As already discussed above, the claims recite selecting and setting types of event data, such as note-on data, which indicate a specific type of event that causes the tone generator to generate a sound differently. Ohba, on the other hand, discloses using a filter to detect the musical characteristics of a sound already synthesized based on MIDI data. The two techniques are completely different, with the present invention provides the user more precise control over the animated object. Applicants respectfully submit that this aspect of the claimed inventions are simply not taught by either Sato nor Ohba. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-22 are not anticipate or obvious in view of Sato or Ohba, either alone or combined.


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested, and an early allowance is solicited. If the Examiner believes it would further advance the present application, he is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petition(s) for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 39303.20052.00.

Respectfully submitted,

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